

TELEPHONE DISCUSSION NOTES

DATE: July 6, 2006

PROJECT: Mt. Tom 316(b)

TIME: 14:15 pm

TALKED WITH: Dana Hartley

BY: Chris Tomichek

I, Chris Tomichek, Senior Fisheries Biologist from Kleinschmidt Associates called Dana Hartley, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Shortnose Sturgeon Recovery Coordinator, to report that two dead shortnose sturgeon floated into the Mount Tom intake on July 5, 2006 and July 6, 2006. per the request of Bob Stira and Dick Merchant of NGS.

I reported to Dana that a previous dead shortnose sturgeon 24-in. in length was found at Mount Tom late in the afternoon of July 5 and another shortnose sturgeon about the same size had washed into the intake on July 6, 2006 just before the call was placed. I indicated that Bob Stira had taken samples for genetic testing from the first fish and disposed of it in the trash and he was on his way back to Mount Tom to take samples for genetic testing from the second shortnose sturgeon. During the conversation, I emailed Dana pictures of the sturgeon found on July 5. She agreed with me that the fish looked like it had been dead for awhile and was not killed by impingement. She asked me why I thought it was dead. I told her that I could speculate that the very high river flows this spring may have played a part in the death.

Dana requested that the Mount Tom Station freeze the second fish after genetic material was collected, so she could have time to determine if NMFS would fund a necropsy (non-human autopsy) on the fish. I indicated to her that Mount Tom did not have freezer facilities to hold the fish. She then decided to call the Conte Anadromous Fish Lab to see if they would hold the fish. She called back to indicate no one answered the phone at Conte Lab. She called again to indicate that Don Pugh a technician at the lab returned the call and indicated that he would put the fish in the freezer if Bob Stira delivered it to the lab.

Just before she called me back to ask if Bob Stira would drive the second fish to the Conte Lab, I received pictures of the second fish from Mark Kimball. During our conversation, I sent the pictures of the second fish to Dana and she agreed with me that the second fish was too deteriorated to save for a necropsy.

About 10 minutes later, Dana called again and indicated that Micah Kieffer from the Conte Lab called and wanted both fish to check for PIT tags and he was willing to pick them up at Mount Tom Station. Dana gave Micah Kieffer, Bob Stira's cell phone number and he was going to contact Bob.

I spoke to Bob Stira on Friday July 7, 2006 and he indicated that he met Micah Kieffer in Sunderland, MA and Micah took the fish back to the lab to check for PIT tags and store in their freeze for NMFS.